

## ATTENDANCE

Duke of Connaught: C. Shea, K. Helpert, C. Gambacourt

SAC: Bev Grondin (Chair), Tanya Barrett (Chair), Margie Akins (Co-Secretary), Daniela Fermo (Co-Treasurer), Dan Torrance (Ward Rep), Ameet Sengar (Ward Rep), Lisa Casino (Parent Rep)

Sign-In: Jill Hollingsworth, David Darling, Lesley Wichstrom, Aron McGrath, Angie Law, Darcy Ketchum, Sara Tropea, Ellie Arscott, Dave Gourlay, Liz Lundy, Laurie Barnett, Erin Scott, Meghan Cox, Lisa Lebeer, Lynda Rybinski, Holly Jordan, Vanessa Dineen, , JP Casino, Kelly Ackerman, Rebecca Ackerman, Scot Jarrett, Sarah Jarrett, Stacey Iseman, Edward Griffith, Sheila Cary-Meagher (Trustee)

## **AGENDA**

- 1) Welcome and request for all other business
- 2) SAC Elections
- 3) Approval of Minutes
- 4) Treasurer's Report
- 5) Principal's Report
  - Academic review
  - Staffing
  - Extracurricular
  - Facilities
- 6) All other business:
  - Cafeteria Policy
  - Breakfast Program
  - Kerr Road Safety

### **2) SAC Elections**

- Nominations and the election for the 2018-2019 SAC were overseen by Edward Griffith. As there were no multiple entries for any one position, all positions are considered "acclaimed".
- The Ward Rep position was still unfilled so Kelly Ackerman volunteered and was acclaimed.
- The 2018-2019 SAC Executive includes:
  - Co-Chairs – Bev Grondin and Tanya Barrett
  - Secretary – Margie Akins
  - Treasurer – Daniela Fermo
  - Ward Rep – Kelly Ackerman
  - Parent Reps – Stacey Iseman, Lisa Casino, Darcy Ketchum, and Dan Torrance.
  - Fundraising – The parent who requested the position was not in attendance.

SAC will have to meet with nominee to see if she is still interested before she can be acclaimed to the position.

### 3) Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved by Bev Grondin, seconded by Lisa Lebeer.

### 4) Treasurers Report

- Curriculum Night – SAC provided pizza dinner and snacks at Curriculum Night this year to help with the dinner rush. Profit was \$300. This approach will be utilized more often at other night events.
- The final Financial Plan for the 2017-2018 school year, which shows the estimated and actual spending in each area. To be uploaded to the Duke SAC website and a link included in the next NTR.

### 5) Principal's Report

- Enrollment
  - Out of a projection of 945 students, 925 students are currently enrolled at Duke. Teachers/staff allocations are based on these projections, and usually a formal reorganization is required when projections aren't met; however, we received 2 exemptions for two Grade 3/4s.
  - Primary – 204, Junior – 336, 7/8 – 211. This is a relatively equal split among the grades, which is good for minimizing future reorganization.
  - There are currently more French students than English. It is important to prevent friction from developing between the students, which is common when schools are unevenly split. Key to preventing this is to not have internal segregation and have classes interspersed throughout the school.
- Construction
  - Aligning the letters and matching font sizes will be among the last steps of construction.
  - There were a few delays in construction that have pushed the deadline to the middle of October. 1) Waterproofing/foundation issues were discovered upon excavation (80 year old construction methods are not acceptable anymore); 2) Ramp grading and old materials removal; and 3) old coal chute being repurposed for additional caretaking storage.
  - Q: The construction fencing between the soccer courts and the parking lot is blocking the majority of the path and people can only walk by in single file. Strollers are struggling to make it through the gap. Can this be moved? A: Yes. *We will ask them to move the fencing.* (Post-meeting note: fencing was moved by the next morning).
- Terry Fox Run is on Friday. School has support from Fire and Police, as well as staff and parents the day of. The bake sale is tomorrow.
- Orange Shirt Day is October 1<sup>st</sup>. This day is to recognize the plight of Indigenous People during the Residential School Era. The Treaty Land Greeting is read every

morning during announcements to acknowledge the people who were here before us. **The SAC meetings should also begin with a reading of the Treaty Land Greeting (ACTION).**

- Q: Will Turtle Island be at the school again? A: *To be discussed by staff.*
- Grade 3 Universal Screening to indicate strengths and needs of kids will be the first week of October.
- All sports teams have started. October 1<sup>st</sup> is Girls 5/6 soccer tournament.
- Eco-Schools campaign has started to attempt 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row of Platinum status.
- 1<sup>st</sup> school newsletter to be sent out this week.
- IEP season is starting – modified learning plans will be sent to parents Oct. 16/17. If a household requiring an IEP hasn't received one by then, contact the classroom teacher or administration.
- French LTOs
  - Don't yet have a hire for extended French 6/7 but the school has been pressing for a position.
  - Progress (good news) has been made with the Grade 1/2 LTO hiring.
  - Process for hiring teachers is very complex and has a lot of back and forth between school administration and TDSB HR. Once the school gets notice that a teacher is leaving the school has to request permission to post for the position. Once permission is received it goes on an internal site where it stays until closed. The process for hiring teachers is very complex and has a lot of back and forth between school administration and TDSB HR.
    - Once the school gets notice that a teacher is leaving, the school has to request permission to post for the position. Once permission is received it goes on an internal site where it stays until closed. Because of seniority-based hiring, if the school receives 15 applications (for example), we have to pick the top 5 by seniority to interview. We then provide our notes to HR for hiring or not hiring and HR then gives permission to contact the next 5 candidates, and so on.
    - The TDSB's official position is that there is no shortage of teachers qualified to teach French. However, this does not mean that these teachers have chosen to teach French. They are in many different tracks within the TDSB and we cannot force them to teach French based on their qualifications.
    - For those teachers wanting to teach French, Long Term Occasional positions are not highly sought after. Occasional teachers usually prefer more short term positions that have much less stress (i.e. no parent-teacher meetings, no lesson plan development, etc.).
    - The staffing issues are a common problem and always a topic of discussion at the TDSB. The TDSB has made efforts before to entice teachers into French with little success. It begs the questions whether caps should be placed on a program that cannot be staffed appropriately.

## 6) All Other Business

- Cafeteria Policy
  - Q: Regarding kids being “forced” to eat in the cafeteria, why has this policy been changed? It’s incredibly hot, there are no fans or air conditioning, and the pool/boiler room are nearby making it hotter. Note: Student has acquired 140 signatures from kids asking to change this policy.
  - A: *There is a misconception of what the lunch policy used to be.* Kids were never allowed to just go where they wanted at lunch time. The most important concern for staff is to know where all the kids are at lunch time. We have 6 lunchroom supervisors, who are allocated based on the number of students (i.e. 1:99, 2: 120, etc.). So how do we deal with the back, front, and cafeteria? Currently the back field is closed at lunch because there aren’t enough supervisors. We are forming a plan with the following goals: a) eating all together; b) maximize play; and c) have the entire school property open. Also work orders have been placed to make the windows in the cafeteria functioning (i.e. opening), and 3 industrial fans have been ordered.
  - Q: Why can’t kids just eat during their outside time? A: *Kids can eat at any time but it creates problems:*
    - Food not being disposed of properly results in allergies, litter, and wasps/bee stings. Also makes maintaining platinum status difficult.
    - Tough to know where kids are at all times – if they’ve already eaten outside then they won’t come inside at their slotted time and now we don’t know where they are.
  - Q: Can more supervisors be added? A: *Lunchroom supervisors are allocated and we have the proper number based on our enrollment. Additionally, staff has been added to lunch supervision.*
  - Q: What’s the fire escape route during construction for the lunch room? A: *Up the stairs from Door 9, into gym, out gym doors.*
- Breakfast Program
  - Door 5 is the access door for the program while construction is ongoing. Kids can buzz in because we can’t leave doors propped open. The staff that used to be at Door 8 last year was a “bonus” for that year and is no longer available.
- Kerr Road Safety
  - Kerr Road is incredibly unsafe, especially in the mornings. So many parents use the street to drop off their kids, or park for drop off. The curve of Kerr and Highfield is particularly dangerous as that’s where the stairs are located to access the school. Can the Kiss n’ Ride Program be reinstated to help relieve the drop offs on Kerr?
  - A: *The Kiss n Ride Program was based on parent volunteers, of which there were never enough. It ended up being the same few volunteers every day which resulted in burnout. Action: call for volunteers to reinstate the program.*
  - **Action: Kelli to provide contact for traffic officers at 55 Division to come do**

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SAC MEETING – September 25, 2018 (6:30-8:00 p.m.)

**more traffic blitzes in the area.** Parents should also get video of the dangerous conditions and send it to councillors and candidates. Perhaps a crossing guard may get installed.

- Arts at Duke: Duke is a big sports school but also has a lot of Arts opportunities, including the school musical. Auditions will start next month for an original musical, where kids will be writing the script. Even if your child isn't artistic they can still help backstage with lights, sounds, props, etc. **Action: Consult Edward Griffith for online sign-ups for the school year.**
- Pool temperature is freezing again. Sheila asked for as many emails as possible regarding this concern to fortify her request to the TDSB who is in charge of pool temperatures and made a guarantee.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.**

Minutes by SAC Secretary M. Akins